

COINS TAKEN FOR POSTAGE.

LETTER

FROM

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,

TRANSMITTING

*Copy of a letter from the postmaster at New York, relative to silver coins, &c.*

FEBRUARY 9, 1844.

Read, and referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *February 1, 1844.*

SIR: In obedience to the resolution of the House of Representatives requiring me to communicate "at what rates the silver coins (other than those of the federal coinage) in usual circulation are received at the post office in the city of New York, and whether such coins are, or have been, disposed of by any of the officers or clerks in the said post office at a higher rate than that at which they were received," I have the honor to communicate a copy of a letter received from the postmaster of New York touching the subject-matter of said resolution, and written in answer to a call from this department, namely:

"POST OFFICE,  
"New York, January 24, 1844.

"SIR: In reply to the resolution offered to the House of Representatives by the Hon. H. Fish, and to which you have directed my attention, I beg leave to state, that from the time the banks of this city refused to receive on deposit fractions of Spanish or Mexican dollars at a rate exceeding 23 cents for quarter dollars, 10 cents for one-eighth, and 5 cents for sixteenths, the post office was compelled to adopt the same rates. A very large quantity of these coins was on hand at the time of such refusal by the banks; and those, together with such as have been received subsequently, have either been paid out at the same rates at which they were received, or exchanged for American coin, without any emolument or profit to the postmaster, or any of his clerks or subordinates.

"Respectfully, your obedient servant,

"JOHN LORIMER GRAHAM, *Postmaster.*

"Hon. CHARLES A. WICKLIFFE,

"*Postmaster General.*"

To the foregoing I deem it proper to add, that the postmaster's standing instructions from this department require him to deposite the net proceeds of his office in bank, at the end of each week, to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, for the service of the Post Office Department; and that no allowance is ever made by the department to any postmaster for the depreciation of money received for postages, each and all of them being held accountable in the legal currency of the United States.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, &c. &c.,

C. A. WICKLIFFE.

Hon. J. W. JONES,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

Copy of a letter from the postmaster at New York, relative to silver coins, &c.

FEBRUARY 9, 1844.

Read, and referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Post Office Department, February 1, 1844.

Sir: In obedience to the resolution of the House of Representatives, requiring me to communicate "at what rates the silver coins (other than those of the federal coinage) in usual circulation are received at the post office in the city of New York, and whether such coins are, or have been, disposed of by any of the officers or clerks in the said post office at a higher rate than that at which they were received," I have the honor to communicate a copy of a letter received from the postmaster of New York touching the subject-matter of said resolution, and written in answer to a call from this department, namely:

"Post Office,

"New York, January 24, 1844.

"Sir: In reply to the resolution offered to the House of Representatives by the Hon. H. Fish, and to which you have directed my attention, I beg leave to state, that from the time the banks of this city refused to receive on deposit fractions of Spanish or Mexican dollars at a rate exceeding 25 cents for quarter dollar, 10 cents for one eighth, and 5 cents for sixteenth, the post office was compelled to adopt the same rates. A very large quantity of these coins was on hand at the time of such refusal by the banks, and these, together with such as have been received subsequently, have either been paid out at the same rates at which they were received, or exchanged for American coin, without any emolument or profit to the postmaster, or any of his clerks or subordinates.

"Respectfully, your obedient servant,

"JOHN FORINER GRAHAM, Postmaster.

Wm. Charles A. Wickliffe,

"Postmaster General."

Wm. C. Wickliffe, Jr.